

## COOL HANGOUT

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST GOLF DESTINATIONS

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[bunkered.co.uk/travel](http://bunkered.co.uk/travel)Las Colinas Golf  
& Country Club*Spain's No.1 golf course in the spotlight...*WORDS **BRYCE RITCHIE**  
PHOTOS **SUPPLIED**

**T**he best way to find out if a golf holiday resort is up to scratch is to check and see whether it has repeat business. The good ones always do, and Las Colinas Golf & Country Club more than deserves its status as a leading example.

The resort, which nestles in beautiful Mediterranean woodland in Murcia, just south of Alicante, has so much to offer visiting golfers. And having stayed on-site at the resort and played the golf course countless times, we can attest to this Spanish hotspot as having all the attributes of a world-class golf offering. If you are looking for a post-summer golf escape, or somewhere for a winter treat with the clubs, then Las Colinas lives up to the hype.

Late last year, the Troon Golf-managed resort won the 'Leading Villa Resort' category at the World Travel Awards. Making that award a little more special was the fact that that particular category was voted for by the public, not a panel of experts. The award is given to resorts that not only offer world-class facilities but that also provide 'additional attractions and services', all seamlessly integrated with cutting edge design throughout the property.

If that wasn't enough praise, things stepped up a notch when it was then named as Spain's Best Golf Course at the World Golf Awards. Receiving the award, Cristóbal Guerrero, the MD at Las Colinas, pointed out that the success of the resort comes down to the fact that it is more than just a golf course.

"Las Colinas really has become known for being a community that offers everything," he said. "From the moment you drive on to the estate you enter a world of endless opportunities. ▶"



**Main** The superb 8th with its two tier green  
**Below, left to right** the 16th and 17th holes at Las Colinas; an example of one of the many world-class villas on-site at the resort in Murcia.



► facilities and experiences. When you put this alongside our magnificent real estate proposition and Top 100 European ranked golf course it's easy to see why more and more people are choosing to make Las Colinas their destination of choice in the sun."

The golf course is set in 10,000 hectares of stunning scenery, with views of the Mediterranean Sea in the distance and the Mar Menor lagoon. The course is a Cabell B Robinson design and is maintained to truly exceptional standards. This, quite simply,

is what golf resorts across Europe should aspire to. It stretches to 6,376 metres from the tips, with five different sets of tees available to play from.

The layout is characterised by manicured fairways and first-class greens and has its fair share of notable holes, many of which runs through meandering valleys and alongside enormous water features. Standout holes include the 13th with its corridor

“ The golf course is set in 10,000 hectares of stunning scenery and provides a truly unrivalled golf experience ”

of bunkers that swarm the fairway, making the tee-shot a fearsome one, while the par-3 fifth sees its fair share of casualties finding a watery grave. The 11th, meanwhile, is as good a par-5 as you're likely to play in European golf.

The course is complemented by four-standard practice facilities, a Golf Academy and a well-stocked pro shop.

The operational side of things is managed by Troon

Golf, one of the industry's leading golf management firms, responsible for some of the world's most luxurious resorts. The primary concern here is to provide the whole experience, or what they refer to at Las Colinas as the 'ultimate guest experience'.

That experience extends to the practice facilities, where you get natural grass hitting areas, manicured putting green and dedicated short game area. A complimentary pyramid of TaylorMade practice balls is thrown in for all visitors. Directed by Head PGA Professional Robert Mitchell, ►



### WORLD CLASS

The spectacular bunkering makes for a fine test

► the latest ultra-high-speed video analysis technology ensures first-class coaching for golfers of all ages and abilities.

Mitchell says the resort has something 'special' to offer visiting golfers.

"The moment you drive up through the canyon entrance and look over the valley where the clubhouse and golf course is located, you can tell that you're in a special place," he tells *bunkered*. "The attention to detail shines through and despite its young age, the whole resort has a distinct maturity to it. The course is a fantastic test for players of all levels. Generous off the tee, it is around the greens where the real challenge awaits. Mishit your approach and pars become very difficult.

"The Golf Academy facilities are also excellent for improving your game. A natural grass practice area with your own pyramid of TaylorMade balls and an excellent short game area where you can practice the chips and putts that face you on the golf course means that, coupled with expert instruction that focusses on more than just swing technique,

your best golf can surely be discovered with us."

Andrew Jowett, the head professional at Gleneagles, was impressed with the facilities and quest experience during a recent visit with *bunkered* and said he would be looking to return in the near future.

"It's a great set-up, no doubt," said Jowett, who was part of Gleneagles' Ryder Cup team in 2014. "The quality and location of the accommodation and the whole experience of the golf operations side is amongst the best I've encountered in a long time. Service is something we value highly at Gleneagles and it's very evident at Las Colinas that the customer gets treated accordingly. I'm looking forward to returning in the near future."

Sitting proudly overlooking the golf course or the wooded landscapes, rich in indigenous Mediterranean trees, Las Colinas's lavish self-catering apartments and villas provide 'five-star' amenities and a 'world apart' experience, offering its guests the opportunity to tailor their leisure experiences to their own desires.

## LAS COLINAS

### KEY FACTS

#### CLUBHOUSE

Your home away from the villa is a welcoming stop-off and contains all the requirements a holiday golfer could ever need. It sits behind the 18th green and has plenty of outside terracing so you can have your breakfast, lunch and dinner in the sun.



#### BEACH CLUB

Located just a few minutes from Las Colinas and situated on the seafront at La Glea beach in Campoamor, this is a "private hideaway" complete with its own café bar, infinity pool and magnificent palm trees. Rather nice, we have to admit.



#### UNIK CAFÉ

Set in the clubhouse, the UNIK CAFÉ offers fine food that is a re-invention of classic dishes, with a touch of balanced creativity. You have a choice of Spanish or international breakfasts and a cafeteria and restaurant menu for lunch and dinner. First-class food.



#### ACCOMMODATION

Visitors can stay in apartments for weekends or longer breaks. You can also go the whole nine yards - or up to 3,000 square metres to be precise - and buy your own modern two- to five-bedroom home, each complete with truly stunning views.



#### GET IN TOUCH

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